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4: Indiana U. S-4, 5 1955 RG4 Estonia RG4
Livonians

Annex "A," Subparagraph 1f,
Sociological Background

SOCIAL STRUCTURE

565 Class system. Class distinction among the Livonians is based on economic differences. Before the occupation by the Soviet Union in 1940, there were basically three kinds of people who represented three different classes: a) the farmers, that is, the owners of ancestral farms (4-8 ha. of arable land and 25-50 ha. of meadows); b) the small farmers who lived on the land of the farmers or of the former noblemen (owning at the most 8 ha.); and c) the tenants. There was also developing a special class of speculators, called the "bourgeois," who in the class system corresponded in prestige at least to the old farmers.

Class distinctions were more noticeable in East Livonia where the people were generally more prosperous. Here, for instance, the "bourgeois" were not admitted into the co-operatives. The class differences appeared also in the political convictions: the farmers were more for the rightist parties, the poorer elements for the Social Democrats.

575 517 Societies. The only cultural organization of the Livonians, Liivõd iit (The Livonian Company), started its work in 1923, after several difficulties presented by the Latvian government were overcome. It embraced

575 all the Livonians who were nationality con-
517 scious, and became the center of the Livonian revival. The Society had its choir, dramatic company, library, etc. With the help of the Estonian, Finnish and Hungarian brother nations, a modern "house of culture" was erected for the Society. The work of the Society was stopped upon the occupation of Latvia by the Soviet Union in 1940.

474 The only economic associations were the co-operatives, which were organized for the sale of fish and procurement of fishing gear.

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1:Indiana U. S-4, 5(1954-5)1955 RG4 Estonia RG4

Annex "A," Subparagraph 1h,

Sociological Background

SOCIAL VALUES AND PATTERNS OF LIVING

574 369 The few old customs left in modern Estonia are better preserved in rural communities than in the westernized cities. The gatherings on festive or special occasions have long been celebrated more extensively in rural areas. Although these were for the most part family celebrations, many relatives, friends and neighbors participated, thus contributing to the feeling of closeness among the local people. Under the Communist regime most of these gatherings have been neglected, for hardly anyone can now afford them.

846 431 At the birth of a child, the womenfolk of the neighborhood visit the young mother with presents and food. Baptism is usually a big feast

[Estonian Constitution as of November, 1947]

641 Art. 97. In conformity with the interests of the working people, and in order to strengthen the socialist system, the citizens of the Estonian SSR are guaranteed by law:

a) freedom of speech;
b) freedom of press;
c) freedom of assembly, including the holding of mass meetings;
d) freedom of street processions and demonstrations;

These civil rights are ensured by placing at the disposal of the working people and their organisations printing presses, stocks of paper, public buildings, the streets, communications facilities and other material requisites for the exercise of these rights.

[575] Art. 98. In conformity with the interests of the working people, and in order to develop the organisational initiative and political activity of the masses of the people, citizens of the Estonian SSR are guaranteed the right to unite in public organisations: trade unions, cooperative societies, youth organisations, sport and defence organisations, cultural, technical and scientific societies; and the most active and politically-conscious citizens in the ranks of the working class and other sections of the working people unite in the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (Bolsheviks), which is the vanguard of the working people in their struggle to strengthen and develop the socialist system and is the leading core of all organisations of the working people, both public and state.

[194] Art. 99. Citizens of the Estonian SSR are guaranteed inviolability of the person. No person may be placed under arrest except by decision of a court or with the sanction of a procurator.

Art. 100. The inviolability of the homes of citizens and privacy of correspondence are protected by law.

Art. 101. The Estonian SSR affords the right of asylum to foreign citizens persecuted for defending the interests of the working people, or for scientific activities, or for struggling for national liberation.

Art. 102. It is the duty of every citizen of the Estonian SSR to abide by the Constitution of the Estonian Soviet Socialist Republic, to observe the laws, to maintain labour discipline, honestly to perform public duties, and to respect the rules of socialist intercourse.

[605] Art. 103. It is the duty of every citizen of the Estonian SSR to
[421] safeguard and fortify public, socialist property as the sacred and inviolable foundation of the Soviet system, as the source of the wealth and might of the country, as the source of the prosperity and culture of all the working people.

Persons committing offences against public, socialist property are enemies of the people.

Art. 104. Universal military service is law.

Military service in the Red Army is an honourable duty of the citizens of the Estonian SSR.

[65] Art. 105. To defend the country is the sacred duty of every citizen of the Estonian SSR. Treason to the motherland - violation of the oath of allegiance, desertion to the enemy, impairing the military power of the state, espionage - is punishable with all the severity of the law as the most heinous of crimes.